

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 07490 270612Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 /079 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5732
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 07490

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, GE
SUBJECT: GDR NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS: VOLKSARMEE
PARADE

1. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED A CIRCULAR NOTE FROM THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INVITING ALL CHIEFS OF
DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS TO ATTEND FESTIVITIES MARKING THE
GDR NATIONAL DAY ON OCTOBER 7. THESE INCLUDE A RECEPTION
IN THE PALACE OF THE REPUBLIC THAT EVENING GIVEN
JOINTLY BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SED, THE
COUNCIL OF STATE AND THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. THE
NOTE ASKS FOR A RESPONSE ON ATTENDANCE TO THE
RECEPTION BY SEPTEMBER 29. I PLAN TO ATTEND.

2. THE NOTE ALSO INVITES THE CHIEFS OF THE DIPLOMATIC
MISSIONS AND MILITARY ATTACHES TO "AN HONOR PARADE
OF THE NATIONAL VOLKSARMEE" ON MARX-ENGELS-PLATZ
THE SAME MORNING, BUT DOES NOT ASK FOR A RESPONSE
ON ATTENDANCE. I DO NOT INTEND TO ATTEND A MILITARY
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PARADE INVOLVING NVA TROOPS. MY BRITISH, WEST GERMAN,
AND PORTUGUESE COLLEAGUES TOLD ME DURING A DINNER AT
THE RESIDENCE ON SEPTEMBER 23 THEY WOULD NOT ATTEND
THE PARADE.

3. THE GDR NATIONAL DAY LAST YEAR DID NOT FEATURE A
MILITARY PARADE. HOWEVER, AT THE TIME OF THE 1977

MAY DAY PARADE IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT A VOLKSARMEE PARADE WOULD IN THE FUTURE TAKE PLACE ON GDR NATIONAL DAY (SEE BERLIN 5852). WE HAVE NOT YET NOTED ANY MILITARY PREPARATIONS FOR THE PARADE WHICH WOULD GIVE INDICATIONS OF ITS SCOPE OR THE KIND OF UNITS INVOLVED.

4. WE BELIEVE OTHER NATO EMBASSIES SHOULD NOT ATTEND THE PARADE IF IT INVOLVES NVA TROOPS. WE ARE PREPARED, IF THE DEPARTMENT WISHES, TO CONVEY THIS POSITION TO NATO EMBASSIES HERE. SINCE PARADES BY NVA TROOPS IN BERLIN HAVE SOMETIMES IN THE PAST BEEN THE OCCASION OF PROTESTS BY THE THREE POWERS AGAINST THIS VIOLATION OF FOUR POWER STATUS OF THE CITY, THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER WHETHER THIS PARADE SHOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF AN ALLIED PROTEST, DEPENDING ON ITS NATURE. BOLEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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